

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., February 20, 1884.

A NEW MISSIONARY BOOK.

SELF SUPPORT, illustrated in the History of the Bassein Karen Mission, by Rev. C. H. Carpenter.

Missionary literature has its own peculiar charms. Since the day that saw the life of the first Mrs. Judson issue from the press, there have been numerous other works having this character. The last four or five years have brought forth a number of thrilling narratives of life in heathen lands by missionaries from Europe and America. But few have had a life of greater variety and usefulness than the writer of the above. He went to Burma in 1862, and has spent about half of the time from that to the present day in laboring among the Sgau Karens in Bassein. Mr. Carpenter has been home a portion of the time. On one of these occasions he made a visit to Nova Scotia, and thus became known to many of our brethren. The title of Mr. Carpenter's book may indicate the main object he has in view by its publication. He has long advocated the view he holds that native preachers and teachers should be wholly sustained by the native Christians. This, of course, is a grand object to secure, but whether under all circumstances it can advantageously be carried out is a question of much importance. Whether the missionary who is less sanguine and enthusiastic than Mr. C. would be able to lead the people to adopt this practice and to see it to be their duty and privilege to go forth to tell the story of Jesus Christ and him crucified, or to sustain those who are able and willing to go, is a question of the highest interest. Such self-consecration is but rarely met with in older and well taught churches, even at home.

The book is peculiar in this respect. The diligent search which Mr. Carpenter has made among the earlier records of the mission, some of which have never before been published, shew that he had full faith in the principle he wished to illustrate by these facts. Some of the writers to whom he refers held the same view as himself, but by some means their letters were not published, so that much of what he gives from them has now for the first time come before the public eye. Our friend Dr. W. S. McKenzie in the February Missionary Magazine, says of this work:

Mr. Carpenter, with affection, reverence, and tenderness, wreathes laurels for brows already adorned with the crown of glory with which Christ decks his faithful servants. But the laudation of the sainted dead who were heroes in life is merely collateral. Our author has before him a purpose more central, pertinent, and practical. It is to set forth in clearest light, and to recommend as worthy of all acceptance the doctrine of self support in foreign missions, as that doctrine has from the beginning been illustrated by the efforts of the Karen disciples in the Bassein district.

The record as presented by Mr. Carpenter is something really extraordinary. It reads like a romance, and in some portions is replete with thrilling interest. The work those Karen Christians in the Bassein department have done, and are yet doing with a growing zeal and liberality; the determination and fortitude which they have exhibited while contending with the most discouraging surroundings and hindrances; the results they have achieved, and are still achieving, amid and in spite of obstructions that might seem to ordinary courage wholly insurmountable; the demonstration they furnish of the practicability of self support in mission work and in providing for themselves the facilities for education; the beneficial influence of such self-reliance and self-help on the manhood and the piety of the disciples; the means derived from the native churches for building up the cause of Christ in the communities where those churches are established; and for extending the gospel into contiguous heathen territories, and even into some remote regions of Burma, all make up an argument and furnish a plea for the adoption and practice of the principle in other missions, and in every mission-field, such as no one can easily overthrow, or weaken, or resist.

We took the book in hand, intending merely to glance over its pages, to ascertain its drift, and then to lay it aside for reference as occasion might require. But we have read it through from titlepage to footer,—every thing in it,—journal, letters, footnotes, appendices,—all with equal avidity. We have been instructed, surprised, fasci-

nated. We had thought we knew all there was to be known, at least all that was worth learning, about the missions among the Karens in Burma. We own with gratitude that our knowledge in that line has been very much replenished, and confess with frankness that our former knowledge has been considerably rectified, while our interest in the religious character, the present attainments, and the future prospects of the Karens of Bassein, is in consequence greatly intensified.

Notwithstanding this warm commendation, we should hesitate a while before deciding that it is the duty of Christians to withdraw support from Christian laborers in heathen lands, so as to let them depend wholly on their fellow Christians. In his preface, Mr. C. intimates that self-support is a thing to aim at rather than to hastily adopt. He writes:—

“Christian missions conducted on opposite principles have existed side by side on various lands for nearly fifty years. The one principle, followed still in the great majority of missions, is that of depending principally upon pecuniary support drawn from Christian countries; the other—followed by the Moravian missions, by Bassein, and a few others—is that of self-help from the outset with an early arrival at local support for all native preachers and all primary education.”

Doubtless the definition given by Mr. Carpenter of “self-support”—an early arrival at local support, is the true and correct idea to be entertained.

Much must depend however, upon the powers of the missionary to organize, direct and cultivate self-support in his converts.

It depends also in some measure, we believe, on the character of the people amongst whom the missionary labors, whether they could at the beginning be entrusted to depend wholly on self-support.

The book should be read by all the friends of Christian missions, and we trust it will be procured by many of our readers, and carefully perused by many more.

SPECIAL OFFER, for a limited time only.—By addressing the author at Newton Centre, Mass., any minister, missionary, or theological student, may obtain a single copy for \$1.00 cash, plus fifteen cents for postage; or the book will be sent to any address for \$1.50 postage paid. Persons willing to undertake an agency for the sale of the book can have favorable terms by sending to the same address.

Between the years 1871 and 1881 the Baptists increased 36,101; the Methodists of all kinds 129,239; the Presbyterians 61,307; the Roman Catholics 46,677; and the Church of England 36,558. Or taking the percentage of increase, while the Population of the province grew at the rate of 18.6 per cent., the five leading religious denominations grew as follows:

Baptists.....41.68 per cent.
Methodists.....28 “(nearly)
Presbyterians.....17.2 per cent.
Roman Catholics.....17.
Church of England.11.04 “

This is accounted for largely by the fact that there is a vast amount of Baptist sentiment existing in the other denominations which develops itself when the opportunity is presented. The further classification of the different portions of the Baptist population together makes them amount to 122,731 they consist of:

Regular Baptists.....88,948
Free Will Baptists.....4,271
Disciples.....16,054
Mennonites.....13,458

These numbers are from the Census of 1881. The records of the 13 Baptist Associations shew a membership of 24,391. Allowing this number to be multiplied by four a fair proportion of adherents to church members, we have about a hundred thousand Baptist people, or as given in the Census as above 122,731. Here then is a fine field for Missionary labor. With the increased means for aiding students for the ministry, may we not expect that the coming decade will witness strides in this direction such as we could hardly think of at the present day.

ONTARIO

is a province of vast proportions, and contains a population of great energy, wealth and commercial activity. A communication from Rev. J. L. Campbell to the Canadian Baptist gives some interesting statistics from the Census of 1881, shewing also the progress that is being made by the different religious denominations. Our readers will be interested in seeing some of these facts culled from this source.

The extent of the province is not yet clearly defined. The old settled lines embrace an area of 64 millions of acres, or the larger area claimed, 126 millions of acres; a little larger than the whole of Spain, and nearly equal to that of France. Beyond all dispute, it is only one fifth smaller than England and Wales with Scotland and Ireland combined. Not one third of the province, as it stands in its undisputed integrity, is yet settled.

Ontario's present population is 1,923,228 or but little less than half the population of the Dominion.

Of these the religious profession of the people is classified as follows:

Methodists of all kinds.....591,503
Presbyterians.....417,749
Church of England (including Reformed Episcopal).....367,528
Roman Catholics.....320,839
Baptists of all kinds.....122,731
Lutherans.....37,901
Congregational.....16,340
Brethren.....7,714
Quakers.....6,307
Pagans.....1,499
Universalists.....1,333
Unitarians.....1,213
Jews.....1,193
Adventists.....696
Other Denominations.....10,983
No Religion.....1,756
Not given.....15,943

Total.....1,923,228
A large proportion of the people are Protestants under different names, 1,684,008, or nearly 69 per cent. may be so regarded.

It will be seen that the Baptists form but a small part of the leading denominations, yet the growth that has of late been apparent in that body would lead to the conclusion that in this particular they are not behind any, but largely in advance of all the other bodies. It appears that

In 1842 there were 16,411 Baptists
In 1848 “ “ 28,035 “
In 1851 “ “ 55,647 “
In 1861 “ “ 74,671 “
In 1871 “ “ 86,630 “
In 1881 “ “ 122,731 “

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The Fyfe Missionary Society in connection with the Baptist College at Toronto, in addition to supplying their three city Mission interests, purpose sending at least six of the best and most experienced men into the Great North West to labor during the summer vacation from May to October. This may possibly cost \$1000, the Society are endeavouring to raise this sum. Dr. McVicar is the Treasurer and Rev. T. Trotter, is the Secretary.

THE CASE OF REV. W. G. LANE.

It is now pretty generally known that we have had, in Halifax, a very unpleasant case of marrying, without a license, as the law requires. We have purposely abstained from expressing an opinion on the case, since we were informed that it would be taken into court. For the information of those who have not heard the particulars of the matter we may briefly state that in November last the Rev. W. G. Lane, Methodist Minister, was summoned from an evening religious meeting to his own house to perform a marriage service between a military sergeant, and a young woman who with their friends were there in waiting. Mr. L. enquired for the license but was led to suppose the parties had already obtained one and had left it at home. Mr. Lane being the Wesleyan minister in charge, as chaplain, of the military men in the garrison belonging to that body, it was not remarkable that the parties should go to him. He hesitated about performing the service without the required license but on the promise being made to bring it in the morning, he proceeded. The Wesleyan says he was “helped by the belief that in numerous cases arising from detention of licenses, etc., other ministers had done the same thing. At the conclusion, however, of the ceremony he resolved to secure a paper declaring the marriage null and void in case of the continued absence of the license.

At the same time he declined to hand a certificate of marriage to the woman, and refused to accept any fee, until the license should be produced. The sequel is easily told. The promised paper was never presented and the sergeant for reasons which he deemed quite sufficient, abandoned the woman, to whom, he claimed he was not legally married.

It was not long before the case became known to the public, and, eventually, the government was applied to to enforce the penalty made and provided in such cases. A writ was issued and although Mr. Lane admitted that he had broken the law in its letter, he did not think he had “sinned against the spirit of the law.” By the advice of his friends he resolved to pay the fine of \$200.

It has been suggested that the parties giving the information to the government and pressing for the prosecution of Mr. Lane were induced to do so because of his public condemnation of the drunkenness and other immoralities in the city, but this of course can only be surmised. It now appears that the penalty has been paid by some of Mr. Lane's friends and so the case ends as far as these parties are concerned.

But this case has opened up the whole question with several other features. The Presbyterian Witness of last week gave a lengthy article upon the subject; and defends Mr. Lane from any intentional violation of the law—“but was only a little too obliging” and says: “He did what has been done some time or other in good faith and in stress of circumstances by probably every clergyman in this province where the letter of the law has not been fulfilled. We know of cases where days and weeks elapsed after a marriage was solemnized before the license papers were complete.”

If these statements are correct they open up several very grave questions which it would be well for clergymen to consider. If the absence of the license vitiates the marriage and renders it invalid as well as illegal, such parties as our cotemporary refers to must have been living together in an unmarried state. Then, further, if the parties are so living together improperly without marriage it may be questioned whether the obtaining of the license alters their state in any respect, or whether they ought not to be subsequently married, in accordance with the law, to render it a proper marriage and to render their children legitimate.

This gives a more serious aspect to the question than that of any penalty, and shows how necessary it is that the law should be complied with in all particulars. The provincial grange of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, meets in the Y. M. C. A. building on this day Wednesday.

The Morning Herald is giving its readers pictorial illustrations and portraits of prominent persons. Saturday's paper had those of El Mahdi, The Kedire, “Chinese” Gordon, and Baker Pasha. We forgot to mention last week that the cut of the Montreal Ice Palace was kindly loaned us by the Herald office.

THE QUEEN'S NEW BOOK, being a Diary from August 21, 1862, to Sept., 1882, is regarded as not a success as a literary production—having too much of family and other details to make it interesting to the general reader. The first edition is 109,000 copies.

REV. JACOB A. DURKEE.

We have received a very brief notice of the death of this devoted and earnest minister, at Digby, on the 15th inst. His funeral was to take place at Hebron, Yarmouth County yesterday. Mr. Durkee was known personally to many of our readers, and highly esteemed wherever known, but more knew him by his correspondence which was always marked by intelligent thought and its clear and incisive expression. His mind seemed too active for his small frame and his nervous energy more than his bodily strength could control. He had for several years been afflicted, but was buoyed up with the hope that he would recover.

Mr. Durkee was the son of the late George Durkee, of Lake George, Yarmouth County. His mother's maiden name was Mehetable Corning, sister of Deacon Nelson Corning. Mr. D. spent some time in the study of law at St. John, N. B., and was also for a while employed in connection with one of the daily papers of that city. Mr. D. graduated at Acadia College in 1873, and was ordained the same year over the Milton, Queen's County, Baptist Church. From this he went to Newton, Mass., where he took the Theological course; and in 1877 received the degree of M. A., at Acadia College. Subsequently he became pastor of the Paradise Church, then at Guelph, Ont., and after this at Lockport where he remained several years and was very useful and greatly beloved. He leaves a wife, formerly Miss Dakin, with four young children.

To Mrs. Durkee and family we would tender our most respectful sympathy and condolence.

The following is the resolution respecting the Nova Scotia Railways, introduced by Sir Charles Tupper, in the House of Commons on the 8th inst:

“That it is expedient to authorize the Government to acquire for the Dominion, from the Government of Nova Scotia, the Eastern Extension Railway from New Glasgow to the Gut of Canso, and the steam ferry in connection therewith, together with the rights of the said Province in the Truro and Pictou Branch Railway, for the sum of \$1,200,000, and the new rolling stock and equipments of the said railway for a sum equal to the cost thereof, and charges, the said sums, with interest from 1st October, 1883, to be paid out of the consolidated fund, after the necessary legislation of the Province shall have been made by Nova Scotia for giving effect to the arrangement between the two Governments.”

The following from a Liverpool, G. B., paper will be read with interest by the numerous friends of Rev. G. M. Carey on this side the Atlantic:

PRINCE'S ROAD BAPTIST CHAPEL.—A most interesting and instructive series of Sabbath evening lectures are being delivered in this chapel by the eloquent pastor, the Rev. G. M. Carey. The subject for last Sunday was “The Unknown God,” and the manner in which it was treated showed forth the unrivalled logical genius of the lecturer combined with the sanctified wisdom and spirituality of the true Christian. Under the pastorage of Mr. Carey the Baptist interest in Prince's Road Baptist Chapel is making most marvellous progress. The congregation last Sunday night almost filled the place.

“THE NEW WASHINGTON,” both in its material and society aspects, is the subject of a richly illustrated paper in the March CENTURY, written by one who is intimately acquainted with Washington life.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.

The Local Legislature was opened with due solemnities in this city on Thursday last. His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Richey came to the Legislative Council Chamber at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and as usual was announced by the firing of a salute, by the Halifax Garrison Artillery. The chamber was filled by a large company of ladies and gentlemen.

The House of Assembly being summoned came into the Council Chamber and His Honor read the following:

OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. I offer you my cordial greetings upon your arrival to resume your Legislative duties.

2. Having been charged with the important trust of administering the Government of my native Province, it affords me unfeigned pleasure to welcome your assembling in response to my summons to assist in maturing measures for the benefit of our country, and I congratulate you that we meet under circumstances which claim the expression of our gratitude as a people to the Supreme Governor of the Universe.

3. While during the past year calamities of unusual magnitude have befallen some portions of our globe, afflicting people whose sufferings have awakened our sympathy, we may thankfully recognize the happy immunity from such visitations, with which our own land has been favored.

4. The year has been one of gratifying activity in many of the branches of industry in which our population is engaged. If the commercial outlook for the moment is less satisfactory than might be desired, we may reasonably hope that by the exercise of that industry and prudence, which so largely characterize our people, the prosperity of the Province will be fairly maintained:

5. Under authority of an Act passed at your last session, the Government acquired the Eastern Extension Railway, with the right to a transfer of the Pictou Branch of the Intercolonial Railway. In connection with the transfer of the Pictou Branch, unexpected conditions were imposed by the Government of Canada. Protracted negotiations ensued, which resulted in the making of a provisional agreement for the transfer of these railways to the Government of Canada, on terms which, while securing the Province against loss, effect such improvements in our railway facilities as may be desired, we may reasonably hope that by the exercise of that industry and prudence, which so largely characterize our people, the prosperity of the Province will be fairly maintained:

6. The legislation of last Session, authorizing the raising of money to pay the remainder of the subsidy pledged in the previous years for the Nova Scotia, Niagara and Atlantic Central Railway, was followed by a resumption of work on that road. A large sum has already been paid out by the Company in discharge of the liabilities of the former contractors, affording welcome relief to many persons who had supplied labor and materials for the railway. The Company are now prosecuting their untiring and the Government has assurances that this road of so much importance to a large section of the Province—will, ere long, be complete and in operation.

7. The money appropriated by the Act of last Session for the repair of the Western Counties Railway was expended under careful supervision, and a most desirable and satisfactory improvement in the condition of that road has been made.

8. One of the most important measures passed at your last session was the “Act respecting Bilgus.” I am glad to be able to inform you that, under the provisions of that Act, operations have been carried on in nearly every county. Many handsome and substantial bridges have been built, and others are in course of construction. Within a year or two, it is to be hoped, all the larger and more important bridges of the Province will be placed in good repair or re-built of the most durable materials. The value of these improvements in contributing to the convenience and welfare of the people cannot be too highly estimated.

9. During the recess further information has been received by the Government with regard to the claim of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., for a return of the money deposited by them in connection with a contract then made for the consolidation of the railways. On a review of all the facts in the case, the Government deemed the question one for friendly adjustment, and entered into negotiations for that purpose. The papers on the subject will be submitted to you, and you will be asked to sanction the repayment of the money to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., subject, however, to a deduction of a sum sufficient to cover certain expenses incurred by the Province in relation to the contract.

10. In view of the proposed transfer of the Eastern Extension Railway to the Government of Canada, it will not be necessary for the Province to assume a debt so large as was proposed last year. Temporary arrangements have been made for obtaining such funds as were needed to meet the obligations of the Province. A measure will be submitted to you to repeal the Act of last Session and substitute another, limiting the issue of Bonds to the sum now required.

11. The Commissioners appointed to revise the Statutes of the Province

have com... report w... approval.
12. The... ment has... of a more... pleading... effect ref... in charac... for your...
13. Yo... a bill de... married... arising fr...
14. Th... ing year... the allow... federal tr... inadequat... increased... directed t... with a v... measures... effectively... Province.
Mr. Spea... of Ass...
15. Th... expendit... laid bef... find that... estimate... ment, th... within t... leaving a... tions.
16. Th... year will... I trust y... prepared... and the...
Mr. Pres... of the...
Mr. Spee... of Ass...
17. T... mention... with oth... you, you... now com... your leg... our Prov... gent reg... assured... producti... interest...
In the... member... the Spee... Hon. M... Address... second le...
The c... leges of... the Da... the Ho... Friday.
of retu... read by... which a... Haley.
Mr. M... in repl... made a... referenc... noticed... said be... taking... way w... position... believed... made w... was the... the cit... arrange... Dominio... with th... for fill... Annap... continu... to Yaru...
It wa... to kno... upon th... with e... on to c...
An... in or... carried... sidered... claim t... truste... would... genero...
Mr. ... spoke... various... compan... people... had so... floods... Govern... say the... estimat... surplus... not be... subsid... them a... what... Every... endeav... the pr...
The... Address...
In th... of abou... on Rai... have n... no de... present...
Bell, ... White... amend...
The... Mond...
On l... in a bo... with...
Openi... mittee... numb... Govern...